

# T H E C L E V E L A N D M U S E U M O F A R T

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FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 P.M.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, February 16, 1976 -- Free public admission to the 13-week Ohio showing of the Cleveland Museum of Art's Bicentennial exhibition, The European Vision of America, will be made possible through a gift from Central National Bank of Cleveland, Museum Director Sherman E. Lee announced today.

The gift is the first pledged by a local business concern in support of an exhibition at the Museum, Dr. Lee stated. "Coming as it does at the time of the Bicentennial, it is of special importance for the scope it adds to public participation in an exhibition celebrating America's 200th anniversary."

Announcement of the gift was made this afternoon at a news conference at the Museum. The exhibition, which has been organized by the Cleveland Museum in cooperation with the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Réunion des Musées Nationaux de France, Paris, closed today at the National Gallery after attracting more than 100,000 visitors during its 10-week stay in Washington.

Cleveland will be the only other American city to show The European Vision of America. It will open at the Cleveland Museum on May 5 -- a week later than originally scheduled -- and continue on view through August 8. Then it will go to Paris for a final showing at the Grand Palais from September 17 through January 3, 1977.

(more)

In recent years, Dr. Lee said, the Cleveland Museum -- like many other museums -- has had to charge admission fees for special loan exhibitions, such as this Bicentennial one, to help defray costs. "We are delighted that Central National Bank has offered its support to make free admission possible. Its contribution underscores the growing importance of collaborations such as this, and is a fine example of constructive assistance by business for the arts."

John A. Gelbach, chairman and chief executive officer of Central National Bank, described the Bank's participation in the exhibition as a natural extension of its continuing involvement and support of the arts over many years.

As examples, he cited the Bank's past television sponsorship of the Cleveland Orchestra, its support of the Central Street Players dramatic presentations, and its purchase of works of art by Cleveland artists for the bank headquarters in downtown Cleveland and for its branch banks.

The European Vision of America has been assembled with important loans from museums and private collections in Europe, the United States, and Canada. Composed entirely of European works of art spanning four centuries -- including more than 340 paintings, drawings, early maps, tapestries, illustrated books, sculpture and objects of silver and porcelain -- it is a provocative blend of fact and fantasy, widely acclaimed for the new perspective it offers on our nation's history.

The exhibition is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Hugh Honour, British art historian, is guest curator; William S. Talbot, associate curator of paintings at the Cleveland Museum, and Irène Bizot, Réunion des Musées Nationaux, are exhibition coordinators.

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